Regularisation of services of Aganwadi Workers

389. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to regularise the services of Anganwadi workers and ICDS since their workload has been increased manifold after they are attached to the Panchayats;

(b) whether in view of the Anganwadi workers discharging lot of functions, Government are considering to increase monthly payment from Rs. 700/- and Rs. 400/- to Rs. 2500/- and Rs. 1500/- respectively;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Schemes envisages Anganwadi Workers to be honorary workers from the local communities.

(b) to (d) Recognising the significant services being provided by the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, Government has decided in January 2003 to enhance the honoraria of Anganwadi Workers by Rs. 500/- per month and of Anganwadi Helpers by Rs. 240/- per month with effect from 1st April 2002. With this increase, the honoraria of Anganwadi Workers will be from Rs. 938/- to Rs. 1063/- per month, depending upon their qualifications and experience, and of Helpers will be Rs. 500/- per month. Necessary orders in this regard have already been issued.

World Bank assistance to improve technical education

390. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre launched an ambitious Rs. 1,550 crore programme to improve the quality of technical education through better infrastructure and improved access to international scientific and technical journals;

(b) if so, whether this programme which would cover both Government and private institutions would have three components;

(c) if so, what are the main points of three components;

(d) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide assistance of Rs. 1,250 crores; and

(e) if so, by what time they are likely to provide this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) The Centre has launched "Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India" to improve quality of technical education with the assistance of World Bank. The total cost of the Programme for 10th Plan period is Rs. 1,550 crore consisting of Central component of Rs. 350 crore and State component of Rs. 1,200 crore.

The Programme has two components namely (1) Institutional Development and (2) System Management Capacity Improvement. The main points of Institutional Development component are: (i) Promotion of Academic Excellence (ii) Networking of Institutions for Quality Enhancement and Resource Sharing (iii) Enhancing Quality and Reach of Services to Community and Economy and (iv) System Management Capacity Improvement at institutional level. The System Management Capacity Improvement at National and State level are the main points of the second Programme component.

The World Bank assistance would be approximately Rs. 1,250 crore. The process to select institutions has been initiated under this programme. The funding will be on competitive basis as per the proposals of institutions selected and will be on reimbursement basis.

Criteria for granting aid to colleges

391. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 30th January, 2003 under the caption, "UGC to help colleges with potential";